

To: Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA
From: Dave Reser, LC Representative
Subject: Simplification of the Medium of Performance Instructions (6.15)

We appreciate the analysis done by the Music Wording Group on the future handling of the Medium of Performance element in RDA. Many good issues have been raised. In general, we prefer the more radical approach for simplification that is outlined in Version B. Although Version A is described as the more “conservative” approach, even that version contains some substantial changes to current instructions (e.g., always recording the number of parts, even for a single part, recording the number of ensembles). It seems to us that the more radical approach would simplify the instructions and lead to greater acceptance beyond the traditional AACR2/RDA music community. We would even prefer to see a more complete Version B model presented over the proposed changes found in 6JSC/MusicWG/14. We recognize that the simplifications in Version B might require the documentation of agency/national/cooperative practices in policy statements and/or best practice documents.

Since the two versions are presented only for discussion, we will refrain from making detailed comments on the marked up text, although there were a few general comments that might be useful for the Working Group’s future discussions once a direction has been identified. Some of the comments made in 6JSC/MusicWG/14/LC response will also be applicable.

Version A:

6.15.1.4 caption: to make clearer that the caption now covers both instrumental and vocal music, suggest striking “Instrumental” from caption.

6.15.1.4, Alternative: could be stated as “instead of or in addition to”

6.15.1.7, Alternative: could be stated as “instead of or in addition to”

6.15.1.8: Note that the examples will need to be updated to indicate “(1)” due to the change in practice at 6.15.1.5.5 to record the number of parts in all cases, not just when there is more than 1, so violin, orchestra becomes violin (1), orchestra (1)

6.15.1.11.3: Some reviewers did not interpret the revisions as an improvement; could use some additional revision

Version B:

6.15.1.5.1, “c)” paragraph: make clear that this applies only when a collective term for percussion has been recorded.

6.15.1.5.3: consider an optional omission for alternative instruments and voices as is provided for doubling.

6.15.1.7: Alternative: could be stated as “instead of or in addition to”

We encourage the JMWG to analyze the impact of the 6.15 changes on the instructions in 6.28.1.9-6.28.1.11 and 6.28.4 in any future proposal.